

Dear Readers

Another version of the annual congress of the Sociedad de Neumología Pediátrica was recently held. Relevant topics of the specialty were approached from different perspectives in agendas integrated with physical therapy. Bronchial asthma and research were once again major actors.

It is interesting to reflect on the interest that these topics permanently provoke. Despite the limitations that our governments in Latin America have with increasing economic support for specific development projects, in terms of research, we see that the interest in reporting clinical experiences, but also those related to basic sciences, being understood as an important vehicle to achieve changes in the model of medicine. As far as we are concerned, this allows us to improve the delivery of respiratory health care to our patients.

Asthma in pediatrics and adolescents has increased its prevalence, both in countries with robust economies, as well as in our countries with weak, deteriorated or intermediate economies but with poor distribution of wealth. Different factors from genetics to environmental factors, which modify the former, are under continuous study. Despite aspects of pharmacological management that allow the confrontation of this disease, there is still a limitation in the accessibility to an adequate diagnosis and treatment, aggravated by the lack of educational aspects for the follow-up of patients who are not routinely considered in guarantees and financial protections currently in force.

Asthma causes 4 to 5% of hospitalizations in our countries and the profile of the patient admitted for exacerbations remains that of users and families affected in the aforementioned aspects.

How are new paradigms built? Our journal has become a strong dissemination space for technical issues, which allow various authors, with more or less experience, to publish their way of undertaking and understanding the responsibility of prevention, properly diagnosing and treating diseases of high prevalence and impact in the quality of life and finances such as bronchial asthma.

This issue of the Journal has selected articles that allow discussing relevant aspects such as the relationship with another pathology currently an epidemic in pediatrics such as obesity and that has generated a clinical expression with complex interactions to define more unstable forms of asthma. The same in regards to the potential impact of Vitamin D, prevalence and severity of asthma in pediatrics.

We also wanted to highlight the role of exercise in diagnosing, but also in training our asthmatic patients. And finally, an approach to the management of acute asthma through a protocol guided by results.

In this issue, the chapter devoted to how to read and generate scientific publications highlights the graphic exploration of quantitative data, incorporating the engineering vision in our area of competence.

A very special thanks to the authors and their working groups. As well as an acknowledgment to our readers who have allowed this magazine to be rapidly gaining a space in the needs of the health teams and the patients they care for. New paradigms are about to consolidate.

Dr. Francisco Prado Atlagic  
Pediatric Pulmonologist  
Pediatric Service San Borja Arriaran Clinical Hospital  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics Universidad de Chile